

135 5 an input signal to the control unit for control of [charging or discharging] regeneration of
6 the absorber.

R E M A R K S

By this amendment the specification has been revised to correct the minor informality and claims 1, 7, 12-14, 20, 21, and 23 have been amended for clarification and to eliminate informality.

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement this will confirm the election of group I comprising claims 1-32 for further prosecution in this application.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested. By this amendment the specification has been revised to conform to the drawings by designating a fuel line with reference numeral 6 rather than a tank which is not illustrated. Accordingly, the drawings and the specification now agree.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 1 and 11 is requested. As amended, the claim 1 has been revised to correct the recitation formerly in line 6 in the manner suggested by the Examiner. With respect to claim 11, the specified distance of at least 50 cm. is believed to be appropriate since the segments referred to are different oxide gas absorber segments which are intended to be subjected to different exhaust gas temperature conditions, as described at page 5, lines 6-12 of the specification and again at page 6, line 24 to page 7, line 2, and the specified separation distance of the segments is believed to be appropriate to the desired different temperature conditions.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-32 as being indefinite is respectfully requested. In response to this rejection in each of the cited claim recitations has been revised or replaced so as to make the claim definite. Accordingly the bases for the rejection are believed to have been overcome.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-32 as being anticipated by the Takeshima et al. Patent No. 5,388,406 or as being obvious from Takeshima et al. in view of the Cornelison Patent No. 5,240,682 or the Neal et al. Patent No. 4,755,499 is respectfully requested. Claim 1, the only independent claim under consideration, is directed to an internal combustion engine arrangement and it requires a spark ignited internal combustion engine and an exhaust line receiving exhaust gas from the internal combustion engine along with an oxide gas absorber in the exhaust line with an absorption layer on the surface of a support member for reversible absorption of at least one nitrogen oxide and/or at least one oxide of sulfur, and it further requires a control unit for controlling the temperature of the absorption layer by adjusting composition parameters of the exhaust gas so that the absorption layer can be heated to a temperature at which the layer is regenerated by desorbing absorbed NO_x or SO_x . With this arrangement, as described, for example, at page 7, lines 15-19 and also at page 10, lines 24-26, the temperature of the absorption layer can be increased by adjusting composition parameters of the exhaust gas, such as oxygen or fuel concentration, or hot gases generated by burning a fuel, for example, thereby reducing the necessity for reliance on electrical energy consumption in an electrical heater to raise the temperature of the absorbing layer to the required level.

This unique arrangement is not disclosed in or in any way suggested by the prior art relied upon in support of the rejections. Takeshima et al. utilize only electrical energy applied to an electrical heater for the purpose of heating the absorbing layer to the required temperature. Col. 4, lines 1-14, which were cited in the Examiner's Action, merely refer to a computer in which information is stored and calculations are made and lines 15-23 of that column describe the use of the computer to control heating of the absorption material only by the electrical heater in conjunction with bypassing of some of the exhaust gas, which has nothing to do with adjustment of composition parameters of the exhaust gas. Indeed, there is no disclosure anywhere in Takeshima et al. of any arrangement for adjusting composition parameters of exhaust gases to effect heating of the absorption layer.

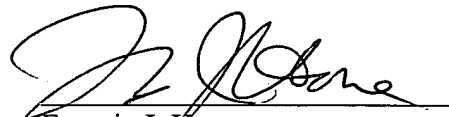
Cornelison et al. and Neal et al., the ancillary references, also fail to disclose or suggest the important aspects of the invention which are absent from Takeshima et al. and, indeed, those references were not relied upon with respect to any such disclosure since they relate primarily to the structure of a catalytic converter core and to an absorbing material for absorbing nitrogen oxide and sulfur oxides. Consequently, claims 1-32 are patentable over the prior art.

In response to the rejection of claims 1-32 on the ground of double patenting with respect to the claims of Application No. 09/252,506, submitted herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer eliminating that basis for rejection of the claims.

Accordingly, we respectfully submit that all of the grounds for the rejections of the claims have been overcome and that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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